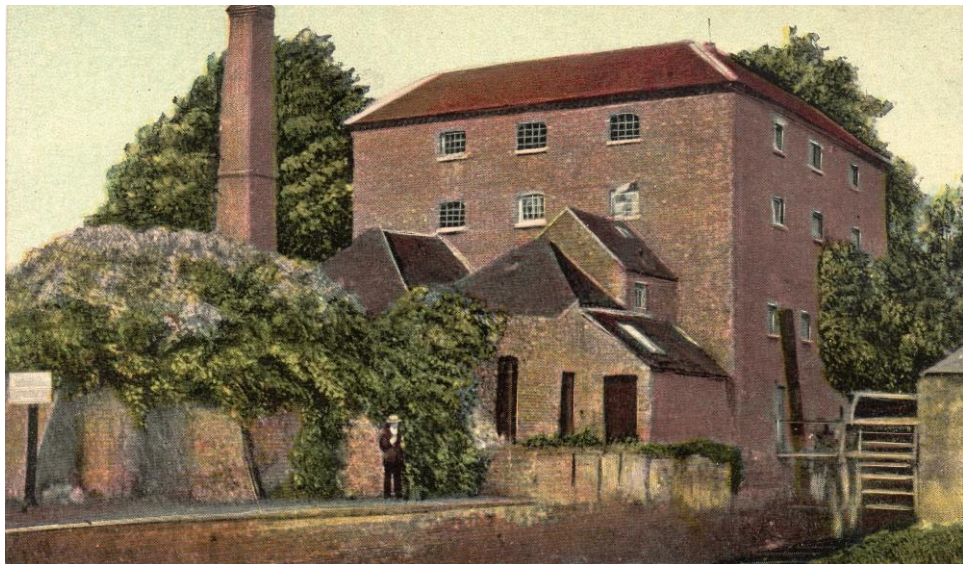


# Bedhampton Mills



Lower Mill, Bedhampton, circa 1908

Compiled by  
Jennifer Bishop

## Borough of Havant History Booklet No. 102

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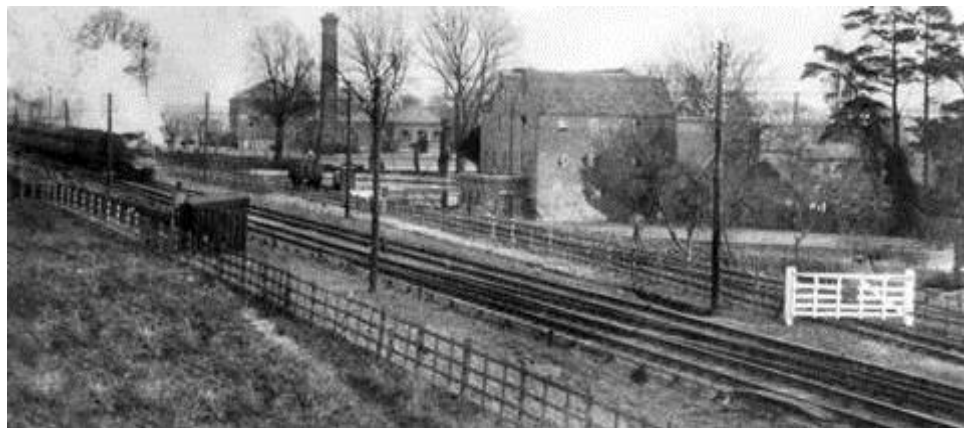
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# Bedhampton Mills

Compiled by Jennifer Bishop

As with the neighbouring manor of Havant Bedhampton Manor had numerous springs, not least St Chad's Well situated near the old manor house and said to possess health giving properties. Another rose in Brookside Road near the old post office. To the east of the village the Hermitage Stream flows to the sea; springs from Bidbury Mead flowed into this stream and together these water courses when dammed formed the mill ponds which supplied both the Upper and Lower Mills of Bedhampton. The Upper Mill was situated on the bend of the Hermitage Stream accessed from Bidbury Lane, the Lower Mill was approximately a quarter of a mile south of the Upper Mill and accessed from Mill Lane opposite the church. Both these mills also had the advantage that at this point the Hermitage Stream became a tidal inlet allowing them to have wharves and trade by barge along the coast, and after 1847 when the railway line opened a railway siding was constructed, together with a railway crossing in Bidbury Lane which gave access to the Upper Mill. The Lower Mill having a rather elaborate bridge built as reported in the newspaper.



The railway siding at Bedhampton leading to the Upper Mill shown centre-right. *Photograph courtesy of Ralph Cousins*

## EXTRAORDINARY RAILWAY BRIDGE

*The most remarkable of all the railway works between Chichester and Portsmouth is a bridge over the line, erected at a cost of £6,000, for the sole accommodation of Messrs. H. and J. Snook, of Bedhampton Mill, the extent and importance of whose business may be in some measure inferred from their having made choice of this mode of access to its principal seat, rather than accept offers, really munificent, made by the Company for a level crossing.*

*The bridge consists of seventeen arches, and is all the more noticeable and costly for the obliquity of its angle with the railway. We understand that the gentlemen for whose use it is made secured this compliance with their views and wishes by an agreement, made while the Bill was in Parliament, which they would otherwise have opposed.*

*Hampshire Advertiser, 19 December 1846*



The railway arches forming the bridge which gave access to the Lower Mill.  
*Photograph J. Bishop*



The level crossing in Bidbury Lane looking towards Bedhampton station. *Bob Hind*

The 1632 survey of the manor of Bedhampton mentioned a malt mill, fulling mill, wheat mill and a paper mill.

The *Evening News* published this article on the 19 August 1953:

### **Bygone Industry**

*A will of 1676, and a marriage which took place in 1700 help to establish the little known fact that there was once a paper- mill at Bedhampton.*

*Writing in the Hampshire Field Club papers and proceedings, Mr A. H. Shorter says he has no absolute confirmation that there was a mill there.*

*But the existence of one "seems more than possible" in view of these references.*

*Both Richard Roades, whose will it was and Thomas Roades who was married, are described in documents as 'paper makers of Bedhampton'*

*It is well known that what is today a gigantic industry enjoyed popularity in Hampshire.<sup>1</sup>*

The Richard Roades mentioned above was a descendant of a family of paper-makers from Goudhurst in Kent, where he owned a paper-mill and in 1666, he had leased it to a Thomas Willard.<sup>2</sup> He then resided in Bedhampton. Richard's son Thomas Roades was listed in the Bedhampton Hearth Tax of 1665. He married Hannah Forder, (his second wife), from Bosham in 1700, at Chichester, where he also registered as a paper-maker. Their son, John, born 9 March 1700, was baptised at Bedhampton as were his two daughters. The

Thomas Roades mentioned in the article above was also registered as a paper maker in his will of 1707 held at Hampshire Records Office.<sup>3</sup> HRO 1707A/102. This will only lists furniture and effects, which included rags and ropes which imply Thomas was a tenant and did not own the property. Following Thomas Roades was a paper-maker called John Hamond. Further evidence of the paper mill was found in a conveyance by lease and release of the manor and lordship of Bedhampton, including Bedhampton farm, two mills and a paper mill and the advowson of the church. Dated 19/20 August 1720. (i) William Cotton (ii) Edward Gibbon of London. HRO 27A01/B1/2/6. There is further mention of the paper mill in 1723. HRO 44M69/E1/2/5.

Paper was made from old rags, wood, rope, sails, etc. At this time it could have been described as thin sheets of fibre. The process involved, removing buttons etc., sorting the rags into piles according to their density and colour, which denoted the grade of the finished article. This was followed by washing to remove oil and grease before being pulped in the mill using a series of hammers powered by the water wheel. The pulp was spread thinly in moulds made of wire mesh placed on an absorbent material like felt. It was then removed from the mould whilst still damp and pressed before drying. The quality and purity of the water was essential when making white paper as any impurities in the water could discolour it. The coloured rags and coarser material like rope was used for brown wrapping paper or thin board. The ropes and rags etc., left in Thomas Roades's will, would indicate brown paper was produced, only white rags could be used to make white paper. Paper-making at Bedhampton spanned approximately 100 years.

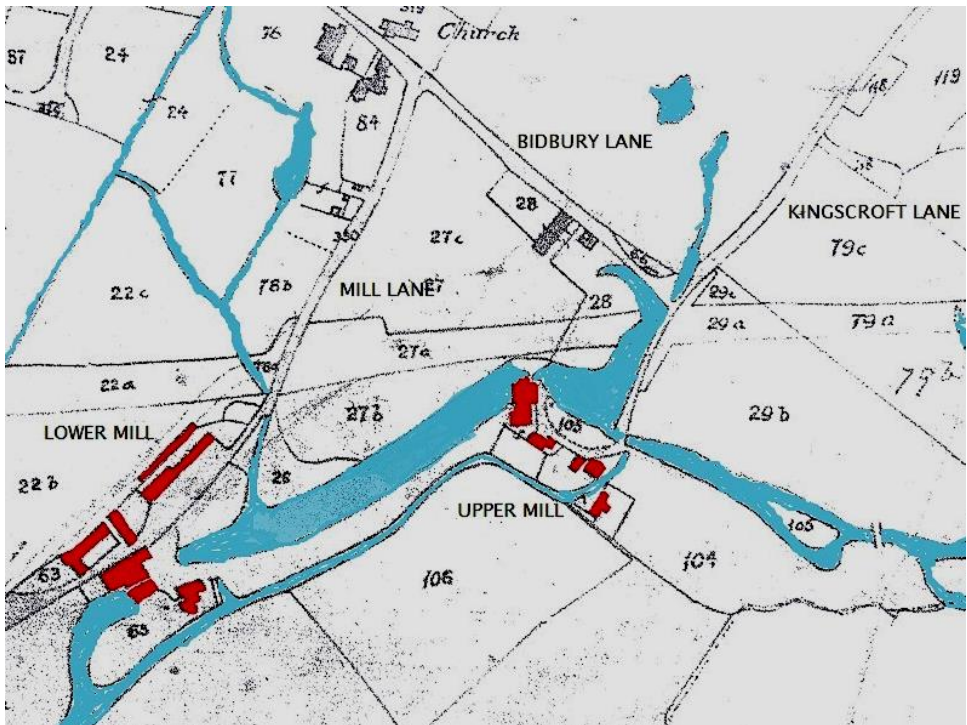
It is thought the paper-mill was sited at the Upper Mill and by 1547 history describes one of these mills as being 'two mills under one roof'<sup>4</sup>, which implies one was dual purpose both fulling and possibly paper as both processes utilised a series of hammers, and were compatible in many ways. But this is disproved by documents held at Hampshire Records Office concerning William Cotton's affairs which mentioned two mills and a paper mill. I believe this relates to the Lower Mill having two separate water wheels and machinery although on the same site it was in effect two mills. In later documents John Snook called his business Bedhampton Mills and I can find



no evidence he owned the Upper Mill. Paper-making replaced fulling in the Upper Mill early in the 17th century.



The Upper Mill Pond viewed from Bidbury Lane



A portion of the Bedhampton Tithe Map 1840s shows the water courses and position of both water mills. The Lower Mill bottom left and the Upper Mill bottom centre.<sup>5</sup>

## Timeline

In the ninth century the manor of Bedhampton was granted by King Egbert to the cathedral of Winchester, later in the reign of Edward the Confessor it was held by Alsi.<sup>6</sup>

Both these mills are mentioned in the Domesday Book 6, where it states Bedhampton in the Hundred of Portsdown consists of:

**Total population;** 26 households, 12 villagers, 7 smallholders, 7 slaves,

- **Resources;** 8 ploughlands (land for). 1 lord's plough teams. 7 men's plough teams.
- **Other resources:** Meadow 3 acres. Woodland 30 swine render. 2 mills. 2 salthouses. 1 church.
- **Lord in 1066:** Alsi.
- **Overlord in 1066:** Winchester Abbey of St Peter.
- **Lord in 1086:** Hugh of Port.
- **Tenant-in-chief in 1086:** Winchester Abbey of St Peter.

Although it was assumed the Upper and Lower Mills occupied the same site as those mentioned in the Domesday Survey it is not proven. In the Bedhampton Inquisition post mortem of 1338 one of these mills was reported to be a fulling mill.

Fulling or felting was introduced late in the twelfth century it was a process in cloth-making post weaving to remove oil and grease so as to prepare the cloth for dyeing. The cleaning agents used were fuller's earth, urine or soapwort. The cloth immersed in this solution would be pounded by a series of hammers called fulling stocks driven by the water wheel; care had to be taken not to overdo this process resulting in holes in the cloth. It was also a very noisy and potentially dangerous occupation.

Following this process the cloth would be stretched on frames to dry and bleach in the sun, this was called tentering and is where the term 'on



tenterhooks' derives. The next process was to raise the nap of the cloth using teasel heads mounted on sticks whereupon large shears would be employed to remove surface hair leaving the cloth smooth, this process was often repeated to improve the quality of the cloth. These mills were a valuable asset within the manor of Bedhampton which was held by:<sup>4</sup>

1167 – Herbert, son of Herbert the Chamberlain, an ancestor of the baronial Fitzherberts.

1236 – Herbert Fitz Peter, a descendant of the above.

1281 – Reginald Fitz Peter brother of the above died leaving the manor to his wife Joan.

1316 – Hugh le Despenser.

1326 – Edmund earl of Arundel.

1327 – Edmund of Woodstock earl of Kent, youngest son of Edward I. He was found guilty of treason and beheaded outside the walls of Winchester.

1346 – Margaret Countess of Kent, widow of Edmund, by right of wardship for their son John.

1352 – Joan of Kent, John's sister upon his death. She was the wife of Thomas Lord Holland, Earl of Kent.

1509 – Merged with the Crown following the death of Margaret Countess of Richmond, Henry VII's mother and granddaughter of Margaret Countess of Kent.

1522 – Henry VIII leased the manor to Stephen Cope.

1537 – Then William Fitz William Earl of Southampton.

1542 – Upon his death it reverted to the crown.

1547 – Edward VI son of Henry VIII upon his ascension granted the manor to Richard Cotton whose inheritors held it until.<sup>4</sup>

1717 – 26 June, It was purchased by Adam Cardonnel who left it to his daughter Mary upon her marriage in 1734 to William Talbot, aged just 15. Adam Cardonnel died in 1719; Elizabeth, his wife then formed an alliance with Frederick Frankland, M.P. HRO 27A01/B1/2/4.

1740 – documents state; the recovery of the manor of Bedhampton comprising 15 messuage, 3 mills, 15 gardens, 1,300 acres of land, 104 acres of meadow, 180 acres of pasture, 416 acres of woodland and 50 acres of marsh. Signed, Lord William Talbot and Lady Mary Talbot. HRO 27A01/B1 / 2/14.

1742 – John Sone held the mortgage on the Upper Mill.

1749 – 19 October, Mr Henry Legge, later Lord Stawell, purchased the manor from Lord William Talbot. HRO 63M48/112.

He left it to his own daughter, Mary Legge who married John Dutton (Lord Sherborne) who by his will left it to his son Ralph Dutton and whose grandson still held the manor in Victorian times. <sup>4</sup>

1792 – The Lower Mills were purchased by John Snook, a merchant trading and residing at St Georges Square, Portsea. His sons, John and Henry Snook retained the mills until 1864.

A dispute concerning the upkeep of Scratchface Lane reported in *the Hampshire Telegraph*, 10 April 1875, saw John Snook appearing as a witness, his witness statement read:

*Mr John Snook, 68 years of age, knew his grandfather purchased Bedhampton Mills about the year 1792. He (witness) had resided in Bedhampton all his life. His father was way-warden, and he (witness) had been way-warden for several years. The lane had never been repaired by the parish. it was a bridle road.*



The Lower Mill House and the former millpond facing west. *Photograph J. Bishop*

## **The Snook Family**

John Snook senior born 1742 in Portsea traded from St Georges Square and Queen-street in Portsea. He sired two sons John junior and Matthew, who upon adulthood joined him in the family business. He was a friend of one Charles Wentworth Dilke, (1742-1826) who worked in the navy pay office at the dockyard. Charles Dilke had three children, Letitia and Charles, born in Bedhampton, (which would imply Charles Wentworth Dilke senior was residing in Bedhampton at that time<sup>7</sup>) and baptised in Portsea and William baptised at St Thomas in Bedhampton.

Introduced by their parents, John Snook junior and Letitia Dilke married on 20 November 1804 at St Marylebone, London, later residing in the Lower Mill house at Bedhampton and from 1843 until they died, at Belmont Castle. J. Snook senior retired in 1806 leaving the business in the hands of his sons, John and Matthew, he died in 1819 at his Portsea home aged 77.

The previous year this notice was published in the *Hampshire Telegraph*:

*The Partnership which subsisted between Messrs. JOHN and MATTHEW SNOOK is this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent, Mr M. Snook retiring from the concern, in consequence of which Mr. John Snook will carry on the business at Portsea and Bedhampton of his own account. - All debts due from and owing to, the late Concern will be paid and received at the Offices in Queen -street, Portsea, and Bedhampton. (Signed - JOHN SNOOK. MATTHEW SNOOK. PORTSEA September 1st 1818.*

It was from the marriage of John Snook to Letitia Dilke that the poet John Keats came to visit the Lower Mill house. Letitia's younger brother, also Charles Wentworth Dilke (1789-1864) and his wife Maria became friends with Keats during 1817 whilst residing in Wentworth Place, Hampstead. The Dilke family co-owned this house with Charles Brown, the best friend of Keats from whom he had rented rooms in Wentworth House.

In 1819, Keats accompanied Charles when visiting Dilke family members during late December, early January at South Street, Chichester for a few days, and to John Snook and Charles's sister Letitia in Bedhampton where they stayed nearly a fortnight night at the Lower Mill house, Keats wanted to see Stansted House, where they attended the consecration of Stansted Chapel before returning to London.

He started the poem, *Eve of St Agnes*, whilst at the Lower Mill House. Keats visited Bedhampton again in September, 1820; letters relate Keats left for Italy the following day where he died in 1821 aged just 25. <sup>8st</sup>



The Plaque on the wall of the Lower Mill House commemorating Keats visits.  
*Photograph J. Bishop*

The plaque reads:

In this house in 1819  
John Keats finished his  
poem the 'Eve of St Agnes'  
and here in 1820 he  
spent his last night  
in England





Stansted Chapel, Keats attended the consecration. *Photograph J. Bishop*



Stansted House burnt down in 1900 and was re-built. *Photograph J. Bishop*

John Snook and Letitia had two sons Henry (1806-1879) and John (1807-1887) John married Mary Augusta Holloway in 1830 and they had one daughter Augusta Letitia who never married and died in 1886 aged just 55 a year before her father's own death, her mother having died in 1865. Henry Snook had died in 1879, at Belmont Castle. This situation saw John Snook willing his fortune to his cousin Ashton Dilke's children. However due to a much publicised divorce case in which his brother Charles Wentworth Dilke 2nd Baronet was named as correspondent, John Snook, now residing at Belmont Castle, changed his will to favour Charles as he felt he had suffered an injustice.

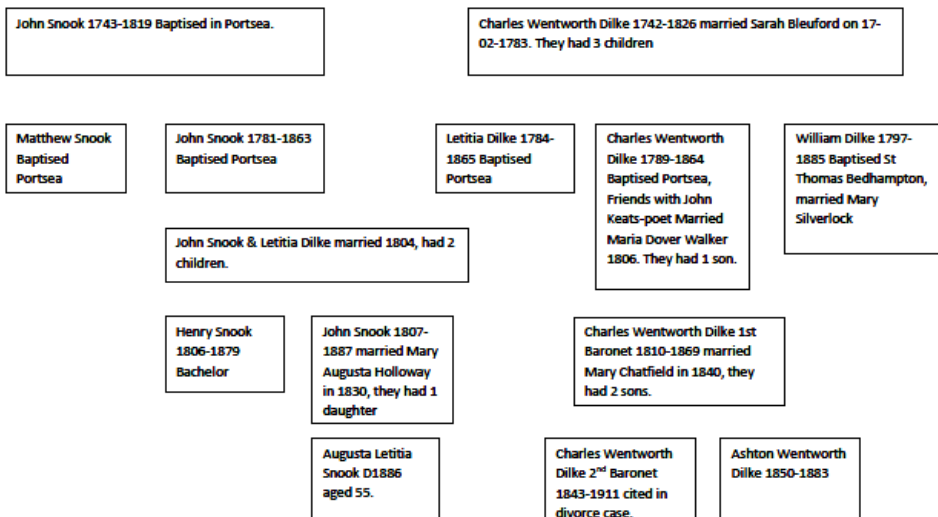
## **WINDFALL FOR SIR CHAS. DILKE**

*One of the indirect results of the Crawford divorce suits is that Sir Charles is to-day the possessor of a handsome fortune which would never had been his had the verdict gone in his favour. His cousin, John Snooke, of Belmont Castle, had intended to leave all his fortune to the children of Mr Ashton Dilke. So moved, however, was he by the Crawford case that, amending in June last his will by a codicil, Mr Snooke changed the disposition of his property. He left an estate worth some £150.000 to Sir Charles for life, the remainder to Sir Charles's son, if that son comes of age, and only in case of the premature death of that son to the children of Mr and Mrs Ashton Dilke. In his will Mr Snooke declares that he has changed his intention as to the disposal of his property because he truly believes that Sir Charles is an innocent man, wronged by those who should have stepped in to protect him from calumny.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 19 February 1877*



## The Snook – Dilke connection



Following these proceedings newspapers reported the estate offered for sale by the executors, named as Sir Charles Dilke, Charles L. Lunn and William F. Fladgate.

**PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT**

**SOUTH HANTS**

*Sale of a **GENTLEMANS RESIDENCE** with stabling, pleasure grounds and  
about*

**110 ACRES OF FREEHOLD LAND**

*By Direction of the Executors of the late John Snook, Esq.*

**KING & KING** (in conjunction with Mr A. C. Lewis of Havant) have to  
announce the receipt of instructions to prepare for SALE by AUCTION, on  
May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1887, at Portsea. - The Desirable and most Pleasantly -situate

**COUNTRY RESIDENCE,**

*known as*

**BELMONT CASTLE, BEDHAMPTON,**

**PORTSDOWN,**

*Having a complete set of stabling and extensive pleasure grounds, with  
paddock attached; also about*

**95 ACRES OF FREEHOLD ARABLE AND MEADOWLAND,**

*in the immediate location of the residence, and now in the occupation of  
Mr E. Deadman.*

*Particulars will appear in future advertisements and in printed  
particulars, and conditions of sale, with plans attached, which may be had  
in due time, or will be forwarded upon application to*

**MESSRS FLADGATE & FLADGATE**

*Solicitors, 40 Cravens-street,*

*Strand, London,*

*of Mr A.C.LEWIS, Surveyor, Havant;*

*and of the Auctioneers,*

**SOUTHSEA: AND 130 QUEEN STREET, PORTSEA**

*Hampshire Telegraph, 30 April 1887*



Belmont Castle, 2018. *Photograph J. Bishop*

The Lower Mills having already been sold, they were advertised for sale in 1864 as being in the occupation of Messrs, H. and J. Snook, a year before the death of John Snook's wife. The Upper Mill also having been sold as shown in this advertisement, whereupon it was put back on the market, gives a good description of the premises. The miller, Mr Henry Stoneham had been declared bankrupt, and his shareholding was for sale.

In bankruptcy

**BEDHAMPTON HAVANT.**

**KING & KING** (LATE MARVIN & KING).are instructed by the Assignees of Mr. Henry Stoneham. to **SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION**, at the Bear Hotel, Havant, on

**TUESDAY, AUGUST, 29<sup>TH</sup> 1865**, at six o'clock precisely,-

*One Undivided Third Portion of*

**UPPER BEDHAMPTON MILL**

*the entirety which consists of a*

**SUSTANTIALLY ERECTED MILL-HOUSE,**

*with most abundant supply of water, now driving three pairs of stones;  
together with a comfortable*

**DWELLING HOUSE.**

*adjoining the mill, containing 3 parlours, kitchen and offices, and 6  
bedchambers,*

**RANGE OF STABLING, CART SHEDS, PIGGERIES, &c,**

*also a very pretty, comfortably fitted,*

**COTTAGE RESIDENCE**

*with large garden, chaise house, stable, and*

**2 PRODUCTIVE MEADOWS,**

*the whole Property covering an area of about 8a.2r.16p.*

*This Property offers many and peculiar advantages to Investors and Millers seeking premises. The Mill and Buildings connected therewith are most substantially erected; facilities for reception of goods are given by a siding upon the line of railway. The supply of water is very large, and the Land is of first- class quality.*

*The Property may be viewed any working day, and every information may be obtained of the AUCTIONEERS, Portsea and Southsea, or of the Solicitors to the Estate.*

Messrs, **EDGCOMBE & COLE. PORTSEA**

*Portsmouth Sussex & Isle of Wight Advertiser, Saturday August 26th 1865*



Bedhampton Upper Mill from the north-east

1865 – Samuel Clarke, a well-known Miller, Mealman, Merchant and Businessman from Havant purchased the Upper Mill from Henry Stoneham where he continued trading for many years before selling the mill to the Borough of Portsmouth Water Company. Samuel Clarke died in 1906.

The two Bedhampton mills surviving into the nineteenth century were quite considerable, having several cottages for their workers on site together with substantial mill houses and associated store-houses, offices, piggeries, stabling, cart sheds, wharves and a railway siding. The Lower Mills had breastshot water wheels and supplementary steam power and the Upper Mill one breastshot water wheel. In the nineteenth century the Lower Mill water wheels drove seven pairs of millstones whilst the Upper Mill drove four.

So far the people mentioned have mainly been the owners of these mills, leaseholders, tenants, or managers and the workforce consisted of many local families; boys had a tendency to follow their fathers into trade resulting

in the same surnames occurring throughout the mills in the district. They would have employed journeymen millers, apprentices, carters, labourers and clerks in the office.

### **The Upper Millers**

1742-1773 – John Sone, Nicholas Sone, Richard Knapp, John Bide, John Midlane.

1757 – 1773 George Midlane was the miller when in 1773 he contested a will involving the Sones. The Sones, Midlanes and Freelands were connected, through Captain Francis Raper, who married Mary Sone of Chidham in the 1730s. Her father married a Midlane.

1806 – John Sone died in 1806 and on 24 March, the mill was advertised to let in the *Hampshire Telegraph*.

1806-1820 – John Midlane, owner, William Freeland, tenant miller, relatives of the above advertised the mill for sale in 1820; William Freeland was declared bankrupt in 1821.

1821 – Charles Iving.

1841-1865 James Stoneham and son, Henry Stoneham, miller, grandson of Thomas Stoneham who had been a miller at the Portsdown Windmill. The father and son partnership was dissolved in 1843; Henry Stoneham continued the business until he was declared bankrupt in 1865.

1865 – Samuel Clarke, miller, maltster & merchant born in Havant to John Bridger Clarke, he also owned Langstone (Clarke's) Mill. He did not live on the premises.

1871 – Census shows James Stoneham living in the Upper Mill-house, with a William Wedge originally from Emsworth, miller, living in the Upper Mill Cottage, another miller Walter Sims from Thorney lodges there. The millers would have been working for Samuel Clarke. It was then purchased by The Borough of Portsmouth Water Company.

1881 – John Tribe, another local milling family. Charles Burden.

1888 – The Borough of Portsmouth Water Company advertises mill to let

1901 – The Census returns show a railway signalman living in the mill cottage and a Louise Villiers residing in the mill-house with her daughter and servants.

1909 – *Hampshire Telegraph*, 18 December, 1909 reports a dispute between the Railway Company and Portsmouth Water Company in which it stated ‘*the two Stones who owned the Upper Mill*’. This would have been a lease or tenancy, the water company owned it.

### **The Lower Millers**

1792-1864 – John Snook senior, followed by John and Henry Snook. John Snook advertised to sell in 1864.

1865-1880 – William Bull worked the mill, then entering into a partnership with Edmund Catt, and then called Bull & Catt. Throughout this period it was known locally as ‘Bulls Mill.. The 1871 census shows an entry, *employing 12 men, 2 boys and 1 woman*. On 24 July 1875 a notice published in the *Hampshire Telegraph* announced this partnership had been dissolved by mutual consent and that William Bull was now sole proprietor. The Mill was purchased by The Borough of Portsmouth Water Company around 1865.

1881 – Census shows no millers residing in the mill-house or cottages except George Ivey who describes himself as ‘mill loader’.

1888 – The Borough of Portsmouth Water Company advertises the mill to let.

1888-91 William Bull renewed his tenancy. Henry Mansbridge, miller living on site in one of the cottages, George Ivey living in the railway siding cottage, described as a general labourer. The Lower Mill-house uninhabited and cottages let to private tenants.

1892-8 – Frank Chatfield & Co: Corn merchant from Warblington.

1901 – Census shows the Lower Mill-house and cottages are let to private tenants.

1909 – Shows cottages for sale or to let.





Charles William Burden, miller, lived at 47, West Street, Havant. He worked at the Upper Mill approximately 1882-1911.



Charles Burden is standing on the left of the photograph of the Upper Mill, *Both photographs courtesy of Julie Knight.*

This list of millers is taken from baptism records, census, etc.; from Bedhampton, it is not proof they all worked in these mills because there were several mills locally, but it is probable.

1800s-1850 John Pannell, George Ober, James Greenfield, John Dagwell, Richard Butler, Richard Woods, Lot Rogers, John King, Charles Fisher, George King, John Mills, Joseph Wakeford.

### **Lower Mill Workers**

1851 – Clerk to the miller, George Hasluck, the millers were, Richard Woods, William & James Mengham, Edmund Privett was employed as a carter.

1860s – Jabez Hillman, clerk to the miller, millers John King, William Mengham, Lot & Henry Rogers,

1870s – Thomas Hother, Manager, the millers were, Henry Mansbridge, James Godwin, and Charles Longland.

1980s/1890s – John Hillman, mill manager, William Tribe, stone dresser, Charles Langrish, miller, Henry Mansbridge, miller, Arthur Davies, miller, John Davies, miller and George Ivey, miller's labourer.

### **Upper Mill Workers**

1851 – Clerk to the miller, William Hicks, millers were, John Lellyett, Thomas Scriven, and William Mengham, and Edmund Privett was a miller's carter.

1860s – Robert Stoneham, son of Miller, Laban Reach, clerk to miller, the millers were Henry Critchett, William Mengham, James & William Wingham, David King.

1870s – Millers were, William Wedge, Walter Simms, William Mengham, Thomas Booth, Charles Ripley, Henry Critchett and John Carter.

1880s-1900s – Charles Burden, miller.

By the 1880s the census shows the mill cottages were mainly let to private tenants, the mill-houses having housekeepers or private tenants.

The demise of these mills was mainly due to the advances in technology, with the invention of the steam engine transport became faster and more efficient allowing imported flour from countries like Canada which produced a harder type of wheat not suitable for millstones. Large roller mills were built in estuaries to accommodate this and many smaller mills were reduced to grinding animal feed.

Also at this time the Portsmouth Water Company was expanding its network and capacity in order to provide the region with safe drinking water. They had applied to Parliament which passed an Act empowering them to purchase any lands and properties necessary to accomplish this. This notice confirms they had already purchased the Lower Mill and that the Upper Mill was still owned by Samuel Clarke.

*Directors were advised that a new trunk main would be absolutely necessary, and that it was very desirable that the resources of the Company for water should be increased. Upon the latter subject your Directors may state that an opportunity presented itself for purchasing the Upper Mill property at Bedhampton, adjoining the Company's Bedhampton Mill. It contains some valuable springs, which can, at comparatively small trouble and expense, be utilised by the Company, and the water conveyed to the Havant works by gravitation. A provisional contract has been entered into with Mr Clarke for the purchase of the property, which will be submitted to the meeting of shareholders for their confirmation.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 24 February 1877*

This notice was followed in the *Hampshire Telegraph* of 1878 by another notice;

IN PARLIAMENT, SESSION, 1879.

### PORTSMOUTH WATER

Power to the Borough of Portsmouth Water Works Company to maintain works and acquire additional lands. Agreements with Havant Local Authorities. Further money powers. Amendment of Acts.

*NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,-That application is intended to be made to Parliament in the ensuing Session, for an Act to effect the objects, or some of the objects, and to enable The Borough of Portsmouth Water Works Company, (hereinafter called 'The Company') to exercise the powers, or some of the Powers following, viz:-*

*To maintain and renew, as part of their undertaking, so much of their existing Conduits or lines of Pipes from their Upper Reservoirs on Portsdown Hill to the Borough of Portsmouth, as is or are laid along the New Road, through the Hilsea Fortifications, between its Junction with the old London Turnpike Road, near Cosham, in the parish of Wymering, and its junction with the same road in Hilsea, in the same Parish, all in the County of Southampton.*

*To maintain and renew as part of their undertaking, the Conduits or lines of Pipes, commencing at Brockhampton in the Havant Parish, at the Western side of the Company's Collecting Reservoirs and works there, and terminating in Farlington Parish, by a Junction with the Main Pipe, forming part of the Farlington Water works, at a point in the Portsmouth and Chichester Turnpike Road, at or near the end of the Farlington Water Works Lane, and which Conduits or lines of pipes pass from, in, or through, into the Parishes, Townships and places of Havant, Bedhampton and Farlington, or some of them, all in the County of Southampton.*

*And also the Conduits or lines of Pipes wholly in the said Parish of Farlington, commencing from and out of the said Upper Reservoirs on*

*Portsdown Hill, and terminating by junction with the last -mentioned, Conduits or lines of Pipes in the said Turnpike Road at or near the end of the Farlington Water-Works Lane.*

*And also the Conduits or lines of Pipes partly in the Parish of Havant, and partly in the Parish of Bedhampton, from and out of the Company's two South- Eastern most Bedhampton springs, to and terminating at the West side of the Company's Havant Works.*

*To purchase or acquire, compulsorily or otherwise, and to take on Lease or to hold, and to take Grants of Easements over the lands, mills, houses, waters and water rights hereinafter described or referred to (that is to say)-*

*Certain lands, houses and buildings in the Parish of Bedhampton, in the County of Southampton, consisting of the millstreams, springs, watercourses, and premises known as Upper Bedhampton Mill, situate on the stream known as the Bedhampton Stream now in the occupation of Mr Samuel Clarke and his under tenants.*

*Certain other lands in the same Parish, lying on the South East side of and adjoining the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, and between that railway and the Bedhampton Stream, North East of the said Mill.*

*Certain other lands of the same Parish, lying between and adjoining the said Bedhampton Stream and the cut or water course which joins that that stream near the Company's Bedhampton springs.*

*Certain lands in the Parish of Havant, in the said County of Southampton, on the South-West side of and adjoining the Company's existing Reservoirs and Works at Brockhampton, and partly on the South side and partly on the East side of the watercourse which runs past the said Reservoirs into the Brockhampton Stream, with power to the Company to divert somuch of the said watercourse as abuts upon the said Reservoirs and lands respectively.*

*Certain other lands in the said Parish of Havant, on the South and South-East side of and adjoining the said watercourse at the Eastern end of the Company's said Reservoirs and Works, with power to divert the said watercourse, for the purpose of carrying the same along the East and South sides of the said lands.*

*Certain lands in the Parish of Farlington, in the said County of Southampton, between the Company's existing Lower Reservoir on Portsdown Hill, and the Portsmouth and Chichester Turnpike Road, and between the Company's private roads to the said Reservoir.*

*To collect, take, and divert and to appropriate and use for the purpose of the Company's undertaking, the waters of any streams, brooks, or springs which may be found upon, or under any lands, to be acquired by the Company by, or under the intended Act, or now belonging to them, and to provide pumping engines and other works for those purposes.*

*To vary or extinguish any rights or privileges connected with any mills, lands, houses, rights or property proposed to be acquired under the intended Act, and any other rights or privileges inconsistent with the object of the intended Act, and to confer other rights and privileges.*

*To empower the Company and the Havant Urban Sanitary Authority, and the Havant Rural Sanitary Authority, to make and carry into effect agreements, with reference to the alteration, improvement, and diversion of the cut or watercourse on the South -east side of the Company's Bedhampton springs, and with reference to the diversion of the watercourse, hereinbefore referred to, and proposed to be authorised by the intended Act.*

*To apply to the purposes of the intended Act the corporate funds and revenues of the Company and money which they are now empowered to raise, and to increase their capital, and raise more money for the purpose thereof, and of the existing undertaking of the Company, by the creation and issue of new shares or stock, (preferential or otherwise), and by*

*borrowing on mortgage, and by the creation of debenture stock, or by some of such means.*

*And it is also intended to incorporate with the intended Act, either wholly or in part, the Waterworks Clauses Act 1847, and 1863. The Company's Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, the Company's Clauses Act, 1853, and the Land Clauses Consolidation Acts 1845, 1860, 1869.*

*To amend, extend, or repeal, so far as may be necessary for purposes of the intended Act, the Borough of Portsmouth Waterworks Act 1857, the Borough of Portsmouth Waterworks Act, 1861, the Borough of Portsmouth Waterworks Act, 1868, the Borough of Portsmouth Waterworks Act, 1873, and the Cosham, Havant and Emsworth Water Order, 1872, and any Act or Acts relating to the Company.*

*On or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1878, plans showing the property and lands to be compulsorily taken, acquired, or held under the powers of the intended Act, with a book of reference to such plans, and a copy of this notice as published in the London Gazette, will be deposited for public inspection with the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Southampton, at his office in Winchester, in that County, and on or before that day a copy of so much of the said plans and book of reference as relate to each of the parishes in which any lands intended to be taken, acquired, or held, are situate, with a similar copy of this notice, will be deposited for public inspection with the Parish Clerk of each such parish, at his residence.*

*Printed copies of the intended Act will be deposited in the Private Bill Office in The House of Commons on or before the 21st Day of December next.*

*Dated this 11th Day of November 1878. R.W. FORD & SON*

*31, St Thomas- street, Portsmouth,*

*Solicitors for the Bill.*

*SHERWOOD & CO.,*

*7, St George-street, Westminster.*

*Parliamentary Agents.*



By 1888 the Borough of Portsmouth Water Company owned both mills, and were advertising them to let:

**BEDHAMPTON WATER CORN MILLS,**

**NEAR HAVANT, HANTS.**

*To be **LET**, by Tender or otherwise, from Michaelmas next, -**THE LOWER AND UPPER BEDHAMPTON MILLS**. The Lower Mill drives seven pairs of stones by two breast shot wheels and supplementary steam power. The Upper Mill four pairs of stones, driven by breast shot wheel. There are four cottages, large stores, railway siding, wharf, stabling and other premises. Also a mill house attached to the Upper Mill, and a detached residence in connection with the Lower Mill, containing 15 rooms and offices, with garden, &c., also about 7a 2r 0p of pasture land.*

*Tenders to be sent on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to C.B. Smith, Goldsmith, and Hall, Fareham and Portsea; or to R.W.Ford & Son, solicitors, Portsmouth, of whom further particulars may be obtained.*

*The Company do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.*

*Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle, September 1888*

This auction notice was published in the *Hampshire Telegraph* on 12 April 1912.

**MESSRS. BOWLER & BLAKE**  
**GOLDSMITH AVENUE**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 1912.**  
**AT THE UPPER AND LOWER BEDHAMPTON MILLS.**  
*Adjoining the Bedhampton works of the*  
**BOROUGH OF PORTSMOUTH WATERWORKS CO.**

*To Builders, Metal Dealers, Wood and Timber Merchants, and others.*

**BOWLER AND BLAKE** are favoured with instructions from the Directors of the Borough of Portsmouth Waterworks Company to **SELL by AUCTION**, as above, at twelve o'clock – a large quantity of

**OLD BUILDING MATERIALS,**

*Comprising about 150,000 kiln and other bricks, 50,000 tiles, large quantities of useful baulk and other timber and firewood, window sashes, doorframes, slates, about 10 tons of old iron, large iron boiler, etc. On view morning of sale. May be viewed day prior by special permit to be obtained from Messrs. Bowler & Blake, Auctioneers, Fratton Bridge, Portsmouth, from whom catalogues can also be obtained.*

This notice would imply the mills were demolished late 1911 or early 1912. Following this demolition all that remained was the Lower Mill House which continued to be let as a private residence.



## Acknowledgments

1. [www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk/publications/hampshirstudies/digital/1950s/vol18/Shorter.pdf](http://www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk/publications/hampshirstudies/digital/1950s/vol18/Shorter.pdf)
2. Centre for Kentish Studies, U1406 E1
3. Hampshire Records Office, 1707/A/102 Roades will, 27/A01/2 Wakefield Collection, 27A01/B1/2/4-6-14, 63M48/112, 44M69/E1/2/5.
4. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol3/pp142-144>
5. Portsmouth Water Company [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk)
6. <http://www.opendomesday.org/place/SU7006/bedhampton/>

Site by Anna Powell- Smith. Domesday data by Professor J.J.N. Palmer, University of Hull

7. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/10.1093/ref:odnb/9780198614128.001.0001/odnb-9780198614128-e-7645;jsessionid=71C9DC20DD80820DB38F431A4DB2151A?docPos=1>

By Laurel Brake

8. John Keats, *A New Life*, by Nicholas Roe, published by Yale University Press in October 2012. Keats letters to his sister dated 14 February 1819 and to Charles Brown dated 28 September 1820.

My thanks to Ann Griffiths' family genealogy and to Ralph Cousins and John Pile for their help and support.







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